



MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
82nd session
Agenda item 8

MSC 82/8/5
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RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships

Submitted by the United States

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	The United States proposes that, pursuant to SOLAS chapter V/19-1 (MSC.202(81)) and the associated performance standards and functional requirements (MSC.210(81)), the Organization should be prepared to take on the roles and responsibilities of LRIT Co-ordinator. Additionally, the United States is willing to build and operate an international LRIT data centre and international data exchange until such time as another centre/exchange is available
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 10
<i>Related documents:</i>	MSC.202(81); MSC.210(81) and MSC.211(81)

Introduction

1 In resolution MSC.211(81), the Committee invited Contracting Governments to submit proposals on the issues which need to be addressed in relation to establishment of the International LRIT Data Centre and International LRIT Data Exchange or other issues relating to the LRIT system.

2 There are some organizations considering performing the LRIT Co-ordinator function; however, they will need to establish a legal basis to do so, which can be a lengthy and time consuming process which may not be completed prior to the LRIT deployment date of 1 January 2008. Therefore, to ensure that LRIT can become operational on 1 January 2008, the United States proposes that the Organization should be prepared to take on the LRIT Co-ordinator role and/or be able to contract out that function to a legally viable entity.

3 Additionally, the United States takes this opportunity to offer, at least on an interim basis, to build and operate an International LRIT Data Centre and International LRIT Data Exchange.

Background

4 At MSC 80, the Committee asked the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) whether it “would be willing and able to undertake the oversight of the LRIT system on behalf of IMO” (MSC 80/24, paragraph 5.98.3). In COMSAR 10/INF.7, IMSO indicated that it “would be willing to carry out the LRIT oversight function but it would not be possible to indicate that IMSO is able to carry out such oversight until IMO has agreed what the oversight functions would be”. This role and its functions, now under the title of LRIT Co-ordinator, has become a performance review and audit function as specified in resolution MSC.210(81).

5 It is unclear at this point if IMSO will receive the necessary approval from its Member Governments (which would require an amendment to its Convention) to allow it to assume the role of LRIT Co-ordinator. It is equally unclear when the amendment to the IMSO Convention, if approved, would be in force and whether this would allow IMSO to perform the LRIT Co-ordinator role in a timely manner.

6 The lack of an LRIT Co-ordinator outside the Organization should not preclude the start of LRIT operations. Therefore, in case suitable arrangements cannot be made with an authorized entity, the United States believes the Organization should be prepared to serve as LRIT Co-ordinator.

7 In COMSAR 8/13/5, the United States offered an organization built upon or modelled after Amver to support LRIT and SAR. The United States expects to build and operate a National (or possibly Regional/Co-operative) LRIT Data Centre. This Centre may well be based upon or modelled after Amver.

8 It has been suggested that the International LRIT Data Centre and Exchange could be built and operated by a consortium of commercial application service providers. However, it is not clear if these providers would be able to handle these functions by the time LRIT is to become operational.

9 Accordingly, the United States is prepared to host, build, and operate the International LRIT Data Centre and Data Exchange for the Organization until there is another viable alternative which the Organization wishes to pursue.

Action requested of the Committee

10 The Committee is invited to:

- .1 consider IMO performing the LRIT Co-ordinator to ensure timely implementation of the LRIT program; and
- .2 consider the United States’ offer to build and operate an International LRIT Data Centre and International LRIT Data Exchange until other suitable arrangements are in place to perform these functions,

and decide, as appropriate.